Instructions
AND
DIRECTIONS
FROM THE
House of COMMONS,
TO
The High Sheriffs, Commissioners, Collectors, High Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers For the Poore, and all other Officers, whom they may concern, touching the Levieing, Collecting, and speedy ending up of all the Arrears upon the Acts of the first six Subsidies, Poll-money, Contribution, and Loane, and the first payment of the bill of 400000 pound.

Published by order of the Honourable House of Commons.
Hen. Elsing, Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

LONDON,
Printed for *Laurence Blaiklocke*, and are to be sold at his Shop joyning to Temple barre.
1642.

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JUNE 1, 1916

Instructions and Directions,

From the House of Commons, to the high Sheriffes, Commissioners, Collectors, high Constables, Church-wardens, and Overseers for the poore, and all other Officers, whom they may concern, touching the levying, Collecting, and speedy sending up of all the Arreares upon the Acts of the first six Subsidies, Pole-money, Contribution, and Loane, and the first payment of the bill of foure hundred thousand pounds.

WHereas by severall Acts of Parliament, there hath beene care taken for the raising of severall summes of money, for the necessities of this Kingdome and that of Ireland, Which if they had beene levied and paid in according to the times limited in the Acts, would have saved the expence of great summs payed for interest of moneys borrowed in lieu of those which they should have received of their own, but also well nigh have supplyed the present occasions: And whereas severall orders have issued out of this House at severall times, for the expediting of those levies whereof they have not hitherto reaped any such fruit answerable to their expectation, by reason of the neglect of Officers, and such as have beene intrusted for those services. That House being very sensible hereof, and having

ving not leasure amidst those weighty affaires, that lye upon them for preservation of the Kingdome at present to take the particular care upon themselves, as otherwise they would, have thought good to transmit the charge thereof unto a speciall Committee, to whom they have given power to appoint some men of trust, who shall send their Agents into every Countie, by whom they expect to understand, where those obstructions lye, and what Arreares of moneys rest in any Officers or collectors hands, of which they are informed there are considerable summs in divers Counties; and doe therefore will and require all those whom it doth or may concerne to take notice of these their ensuing directions and commands, and that all those that have beene intrusted as Commissioners for them, by any the said Acts, to give their Agents herein their best aid and assistance.

And first, whereas divers orders have issued out of this House for the bringing in of the Arrears of the first six Subsidies, at a certaine day long since past, and for clearing all accounts concerning the same, which yet is not done by many. Therefore these are strictly to charge and require you the severall Collectors of each Counties respectively, who have not cleared

your Accompts, that you within fourteene dayes after notice hereof given, do bring in the moneys that are in arrear of those said six Subsidies unto the Receivers and Treasurers, appointed by those Acts respectively, and such as shall faile or neglect to perfect their accompts by the time appointed upon the return of their names, shall be proceeded with according to the law in that case made and provided for.

This House likewise taking further notice of the neglects of Sheriffs and Commissioners, appointed by the act of Polemony, in not returning such certificates, as by the severall Orders of this House they have been required, whereby there could not be that meanes used for the getting in of the arrears due upon that Bill, as was requisite for the service of the common-Weale in that respect, And being also given to understand that in many Counties of this Kingdome, there hath not beene that diligence used, neither in advancing the Contributions and Loanes for Ireland, neither in the speedy returning of the monies collected according to that Act, as the necessities of that distressed Kingdome did require, which they impute to the malignitie of some disaffected to the service of God and the true Religion, but withall taking notice of the libe-

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ralitie of many well disposed persons in divers parts of this Kingdom, which they cannot passe by without due commendation. To the intent therefore that some speedy course may be taken, for the speedy getting in of the Arrears upon either of these Acts, and that upon the latter of these, the liberalitie of the well disposed might not be obscured, but made knowne according to the Collections made in every severall parish throughout the Kingdome, this House hath thought fit, by these agents appointed in every Shire, to deliver unto you the Commissioners of every Countie appointed by these Acts respectively, blank Bookes of all the Hundreds and Parishes in every of your Counties, willing and requiring you upon receipt of them to call before you in your severall Divisions and Precincts where formerly you have sate, all high Constables, petty Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the poor, and all such other Officers and Collectors as you shall thinke convenient for this service, and there strictly to require them respectively within a short time after to bring in an exact Accompt of all such Pole-money as hath beene received in every severall division and Precinct where any Collector for the same hath been appointed, and of all Contribution

or Loane money levyed in every severall parish, which you are to enter accordingly in these blank books, that so by the publishing therof, right may bee done to every Parish, and withall to require them to make known unto you, what moneys they have received by vertue of these Acts, and what any of them have in their hands, what they have paid, and to whom, and that they returne up all such arrears as they have in their hands in any kind, within fourteene dayes after this meeting and notice given in such sort, as by another order of this House herewith sent, they are directed; and that they give notice of all such as have refused to pay in their Pole-money or payed lesse than they ought, and to certifie their names unto you. Of all which you are required to take a particular accompt, and to certifie the same, and Withall the names of all such as shall bee negligent or refractory or diligent and industrious in this service by these agents, who are appointed weekly to give advertisements thereof unto this House, or such as are appointed by us, to the intent that those that refuse may be sent for hither to answer their neglects, and those that take paines either in writing, or receiving, and returning up of moneys, may be rewarded accordingly, of which there

is ſpeciall regard taken by the appointment of this houſe.

And laſtly, whereas by the Bill of foure hundred thouſand pounds, the firſt payment of two hundred thouſand pounds ſhould have beene aſſeſſed, levied and payd in by the twentieth of July laſt paſt, whereof many Counties have as yet returned up nothing, and moſt very little, and being informed that under the vaine and falſe pretence, that that bill was not ſigned by his Majeſtie, there hath in ſome Counties of this Kingdome beene a great neglect of that ſervice, Wee doe therefore will and require you the Commiſsioners of each Countie reſpectively, where ſuch aſſeſſements are not yet made or perfected forthwith to proceed and to expedite them according to the intents and purpoſe of the Act, and where they are already aſſeſſed and Collectors appointed, that you the Collectors do with all poſsible expedition, gather in and receive the ſaid moneyes, and ſend them up to the receivers and treaſurers reſpectively appointed by that Act, and that you the Commiſsioners certifie by theſe Agents all your proceedings therein, that ſo the ſervice may not be retarded but expedited according to the urgent neceſ-

ceſsitie of the Kingdome, which your care and endeavours herein, this Houſe will take as an acceptable ſervice done unto the Common wealth, the contrary no leſſe than neglect and contempt of them.

FINIS.